

Messenger Flashes

Nº 65

June 12, 1973

SEVENTY BAPTIZED AT ANTILLIAN COLLEGE--On Sabbath, May 5, 1973, 70 were baptized in a ceremony held at Antillian College as a result of student campaigns. Elder Salim Japas, head of the theology department, was the co-ordinator of these efforts and also officiated at the baptismal service. Others officiating were college dean of men Luis F. Lescay; college church pastor Earl Meyer and West Puerto Rico Conference president Fred E. Hernandez.--*Luis E. Leonor.*

LAY CONGRESS--Delegates from the seven churches of the metropolitan area of Bogota, Colombia, rallied to a lay congress in the central church. Speakers for the occasion were Elders L.A. Shipowick, representing the Lay Activities Department of the General Conference; A. H. Riffel of the same department on the division level; and Nathaniel Garcia, representing the Colombia-Venezuela Union. The co-ordinator of the congress was Upper Magdalena Conference lay activities secretary Arturo Weisheim. *Raimundo Pardo.*



EVANGELISM '73 IN PANAMA--Thirteen of the fifteen new converts baptized in Chilibre as a result of the campaign conducted by conference president Aristides Gonzalez, appear in the photo with Elders Gonzalez, extreme right, and Hugh Blackman, extreme left. Another group is preparing for baptism.

*The crusade directed by Elder J. C. Palmer of the West Indies Union, in the city of Colon has so far yielded 93 souls. Others are preparing in the baptismal class.

*At present Elder Aristides Gonzalez is holding his second effort in another church in Panama City. Prospects are very good.--*Mrs. Mercedes Williams.*

PLANNING FOR EVANGELISM '73--Ministers and administrators of the East Puerto Rico Conference met in the Rio Piedras Youth Hall to make plans for soul-winning activities under Evangelism '73.--*Fernando Cardona.*

HEALTH EMPHASIS WEEK--Recently a Health Emphasis Week was celebrated in Bogota, Colombia. Lectures given by Mrs. Hannelore Niemann were highly appreciated by the more than 700 people who attended the meetings.--*Raimundo Pardo.*

THE YACAMBU MV CAMP--Close to 100 persons attended the MV camp held at the Yacambu National Park for the youth of West Venezuela. Seven young people requested baptism, and three were baptized in a lovely lake nearby.--*Alfredo Gaona.*



FROM ICOLVEN--Colombia-Venezuela Union College had its share in the first evangelistic thrust for 1973 conducted in the city of Bucaramanga, Colombia, following the inauguration of two lovely chapels. Nineteen theology students were sent there to co-operate with union evangelist Eliezer Benavides, and theology teacher Lucas Diaz. Three series were conducted, one in each church in Bucaramanga. At the end of the series 250 were baptized and 300 more are getting ready for baptism.--*Luis Florez.*



YOUTH CAMPAIGN--

Recently an inspiring five-week Voice of Youth campaign was conducted in the central church of Bogota, Colombia. Our pictures show a segment of the public and three of the youthful speakers, from left



to right, Hector Arias, Benigno Nova, and Fernando Pardo.--*Raimundo Pardo.*

LAY CAMP--Among laymen and instructors, about 80 people attended the lay camp held at Cocona, Tabasco, Mexico. The campers took a brief lay evangelism course. Representing the Southeast Mexican Mission were its president and lay activities secretary, Elders Israel Guizar and Isaias Hernandez respectively, as well as several district pastors. The union was represented by its president, Elder Velino Salazar, and departmental secretaries Ernesto Marinkovic and Loren Gallardo.--*Loren Gallardo.*



LAYMEN ON FIRE--Seeing the wonderful results of Evangelism '72, the laymen of the North Dominican Mission kept on doing exploits for their Lord. Manuel Baez of the La Vega church, conducted a series of meetings in El Pino. As a result six have been baptized and 34 are enrolled in the baptismal class. Raymundo Calderon is conducting meetings in Jima Abajo, and Antonio Tejada is holding a lay effort in Loma de Gu-rabo. Our picture shows a group of laymen who held lay campaigns in 1972.--*Samuel Orozco.*

LAY CONGRESS IN EL SALVADOR--Seventh-day Adventist laymen of El Salvador pledged to win 1480 souls by the end of 1973. As a result of evangelistic meetings conducted during the congress by Elders L. A. Shipowick and A. H. Riffel, 131 individuals made their decision to accept Christ and prepare for baptism.--*Donald E. Crane.*

OUTSTANDING ENROLLMENT--In 1973, Colombia-Venezuela Union College reached an unprecedented enrollment of 885. The two departments with the largest enrollment are theology and normal with 66 and 65 respectively. In order to accomodate all the boarding students, two teacher homes had to be converted into dormitories. Also, in classrooms with a capacity of 35 students, 60 and 65 have been squeezed in. We hope that the Thirteenth Sabbath Overflow Offering will help to solve these problems.--*Luis Florez.*

HONORED--Elder Jorge Escandon, temperance secretary for the East Puerto Rico Conference, was nominated by the Exchange Club as the most distinguished person in the community for services rendered in the field of temperance.--*Luis E. Leonor.*

INTER - AMERICAN
Messenger Flashes

June 26, 1973

Dear Church Leaders and Members of Inter-America:

God's church, our church, this church that we love so dearly, faces an emergency. We are in a last-day crisis. A serious situation challenges the advance of the work. We must decide now whether we go forward or turn back just before we enter our heavenly Canaan.

Last February it was announced that the U. S. dollar had been devalued for the second time in fifteen months. In November the dollar lost 8% of its value and is now devalued by a further 10%. This means that our mission divisions around the world have suffered a combined loss of 18% of their appropriations from the General Conference within these few months.

This is a serious crisis. You see, brethren and sisters, appropriations are sent to the mission fields in U. S. dollars. These dollars purchase local currency in the country concerned. The work is carried on in local currency, of course. But with the dollar having been devalued about 18% during the past few months, it simply means that the dollar buys 18% less local currency. For the church and its world-wide mission program, carried on in approximately 125 different currencies which depend to a large degree on the U. S. dollar, this means a sharp reduction in the amount of money available for salaries, building programs, schools, medical supplies and evangelism.

In terms of men and progress this will mean the permanent return of some doctors, other medical personnel, teachers and other missionaries. It means the canceling of pending calls and an overall curtailment of working forces to the tune of 75 workers. One union president wrote: "Unless help is forthcoming soon, we will be forced to close down our hospital, our secondary schools and possibly our college. That could be nearly a death knell to our work in this troubled land."

Our world leaders met in emergency session at the General Conference headquarters and decided that this is no time for retreat. They were encouraged by the statement from the pen of the prophet: "Our burden for the 'regions beyond' can never be laid down until the whole earth shall be lightened with the glory of the Lord," 6T 29.

They said: "The worst thing would be to have our missionaries come home in these last days. We cannot believe it is the Lord's will to cut back in our work."

To help meet this crisis the General Conference personnel and the workers and members of North America have pledged to raise one million dollars. Each worker of your division office here in Miami has pledged one day's salary.

Here is where *you* come in. God's people have always responded to an appeal in a time of crisis. On July 28 a special *Dollar Devaluation Mission Appeal Offering* will be taken in all of our churches. We want every member and friend to get the blessing in meeting this crisis. Some will be able to respond with gifts of \$5,000.00, \$2,000.00, \$1,000.00, \$500.00. Others can give \$10.00, \$25.00, \$50.00 or \$100.00. Some may want to give a day's income or an hour's income. Give as God has blessed you, be it small or large.

God bless us all as we sacrifice on July 28 for the cause we hold dear. We know you will rally and help us meet this crisis.

Yours for a finished work,

B. L. Archbold
B. L. Archbold, President



**KEEP YOUR
Missionary
AT HIS
POST**

SPECIAL OFFERING - July 28, 1973

GOAL: "One hour's salary"



NEW HEADQUARTERS--Elder Velino Salazar, president of the Mexican Union, cuts the ribbon at the inauguration of the modern, spacious building housing the new headquarters of the South Mexican Mission. Mission president Jeronimo Madrigal, extreme left, Montemorelos Hospital business manager Eduardo Weiss, center, and mission secretary-treasurer Sergio Mejía, right, also participated in the ceremony.--*Sergio Mejía.*

COLPORTEUR TRAINING COURSE--More than 30 recruits attended a training course held for the two fields of the Dominican Republic. Elder Benjamin Riffel of the Pacific Press helped out in the meetings.--*Luis E. Leonor.*

MEETINGS IN SANTIAGO--April 7, 1973, was the opening night of the evangelistic campaign being currently conducted by Elders William Goransson and Jose Espinosa in the city of Santiago, Dominican Republic. The nightly attendance has been around 400.--*Samuel Orozco.*

EAST PUERTO RICO MAKES PLANS FOR EVANGELISM '73--To better organize soul-winning activities during 1973, the conference was divided into four regions at the conference-wide rally held at the Puerto Rico theater in Fajardo.--*Fernando Cardona.*

THE KINGSTON CRUSADE--So far 427 have been baptized as a result of the series being conducted by Elder S. N. McMillan in Kingston, Jamaica.--*H. S. Walters.*



COLPORTEUR WINS EIGHT MEMBERS OF A FAMILY--Saturnino Ramos of the Las Cuevas church in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, experienced great joy at the baptism of Mrs. Carmen Velez and seven of her eldest children. Brother Ramos met the Velez family while canvassing in the neighborhood in 1972. He gave them the third angel's message, and with the help of the church elder and other members, organized a Branch Sabbath school which climaxed in the baptism of Mrs. Velez and her children.--*Luis E. Leonor.*



INVESTITURE--A group of Guides, Friends and Companions invested at the Bucaramanga, Colombia, church.--*Raimundo Pardo.*

FAREWELL--The great Advent Movement is claiming two of the members of our division family. Elder Glenn E. Smith, who for four years served as our stewardship secretary, was called to the Florida Conference to serve in the same capacity. We wish him the Lord's continued blessing in his work, and, since we'll be practically neighbors, we hope to see him and his good family now and then.

*After six months of faithful work as Elder Norcliffe's secretary, Sharon Leach left us to follow her husband who is the new pastor for the Brooksville, Florida, district. We'll miss her cheerful disposition and want her to know that our prayers will go with her and her husband.

*Then, after six years of doing Spanish work for the MV Department, Celeste Curran is leaving to accompany husband Leo who will take up ministerial studies at Andrews University. She will be missed, but we are encouraged by the thought that instead of losing a secretary, we'll gain a ministerial team.